Next GARS meeting is February 8, 2011
Saint Marguerite D'Youville Church 85 Gloster Road

GARzeffe





A note from the President

We have certainly gotten 2011 off to an exciting start. An ice storm that kept Metro Atlanta schools closed for 5 days is not something to take lightly. Unfortunately, it meant canceling the regularly scheduled GARS meeting for January, but it was the right thing to do. We held an on-air GARS meeting in its place. It was the first on-air meeting I had ever been involved with. Turn out was low, which was disappointing. I think it went well, but it was certainly no replacement for the real thing.

The dog show is this weekend. The organizers of the dog show make two big donations to GARS every year, and we make sure to go out and help with parking and communications as a way of saying 'thank you' to them. To run parking, we have to have a certain number of club members to go down there. Just a week ago, we were in dire straights from a volunteer perspective for this weekend's event. I sent out a letter asking for more help and am proud to say that many members stepped up to the plate and volunteered to come this weekend and help. We are now covered for all shifts.

Thanks to all of the volunteers for doing this because it helps GARS to pay for things like our repeaters, and supplies (and food!), and for events like Field Day and TechFest.

There are a few changes on the horizon for GARS in 2011. One of the biggest is something I need your help with. The policies at St. Marguerite's are changing and GARS has to move meeting locations. If we stay, they will begin charging us for the use of the space, and the price they want to charge is far beyond anything GARS can afford. The church has offered us the use of one of their classrooms for the near future, but the classrooms are not big enough for our meetings.

I would like you to think about possible places where GARS could meet in the future too. Perhaps your church, school, city, or something else has a facility that GARS can use. If you think of one, please let me know (w4kda@arrl.net). We cannot afford much, and beggars cannot be choosers as they say. But the goals we would like to see in a new

GARS location are:

(Continued on next page)

- cheap (preferably free)
- central (to Gwinnett County)
- plenty of parking
- handicap access (parking and facilities)
- kitchen facilities (GARS likes to eat)
- evening access
- we would prefer not to change our meeting schedule
- a place where we can set up a permanent GARS UHV/VHF/HF station

I know that last one is unlikely to happen, but many members would enjoy using it. I say, let's put the idea out there since we are looking for a new location. Let me also talk about the 'central' goal. If at all possible, we need to meet near some main crossroads and as near as possible to the county seat (Lawrenceville). It would not be fair to the membership if the *Gwinnett* Amateur Radio Society started meeting in Norcross, Buford, or Centerville. I am sure when we put our heads together we will find a great new home for GARS.

TechFest was a huge success this year and was our largest ever. The other clubs are really enjoying it and the attendees seem just as happy. Thanks to all those who participated and to those who helped run it. It is a unique event that GARS can be very proud of. TechFest has outgrown St. Marguerite's, and even if they were not changing their policies, I think we would have to move TechFest to a larger venue anyway. But that is a topic for another letter.

The February meeting for GARS will be in the large classroom at St. Marguerite's.

Wishing you good health, good wealth, and good hamming,

Kyle W4KDA

The GARzette

The GARzette is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving it's members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by email to n4gyn@arrl.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The GARzette articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, who prints and distributes the news letter. <u>Deadline for submissions</u> is the <u>20th of each month</u> for inclusion in the <u>following month</u>'s issue.

For any additional information contact: View our Website at: http://www.gars.org

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN 770-689-6620 or srbailey@comcast.net

Nominations For The February Officer Elections

Bill Cherepy WB4WTN

At the January Executive Committee Meeting I was appointed to chair the nominating committee for the annual election of officers for the coming year. All of the current officers have expressed a desire to run for their current positions. I therefore will put in nomination the following slate of candidates at the February meeting:

Kyle Albritton	W4KDA	President
Earl Whatley	AF4FG	Vice President
Hal Collier	W4IGE	Secretary
Ralph Pickwick	KJ4CNC	Treasurer
Sandy Jackson	KJ4DRO	Program Manage

Per the bylaws, nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the February meeting.

Fractal Antennas: Hype or Hope? By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

QRZ.Com currently has a very interesting item on fractal antennas (http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=277623). While the idea of applying fractals to the design and construction of antennas has been around for quite some time, very few hams have actually built them, and there are currently no companies building commercial fractal antennas for the ham radio market. The question, of course, is why?

Those that are hyping fractal antennas, most notably W1YW, CEO of Fractal Antenna Systems, claim several advantages. These advantages purportedly include wider bandwidth and smaller size when compared to traditional antennas, such as verticals and dipoles. Those that are trying to debunk these claims contend that this is all just hogwash, and that there's no real scientific basis for these claims.

One thing that's confounding this debate is that there have been very few articles published on the topic. For commercial reasons, W1YW has made his articles unavailable. He says that he will be publishing something real soon now, but there is nothing definite at this point.

There is at least one article on the Internet that describes the construction of a fractal antenna for amateur radio use. "FYI:FYQ: Another look at the Fractal Quad Yagi" (http://

www.scribd.com/doc/18788401/FYIFQY) was published in the October 1999 issue of 73 magazine. It describes the construction of a two-element, 10m antenna. Like most 73 articles, it's not incredibly technical, though, and doesn't really contribute to the technical debate, except to demonstrate that physically small antennas can be made using fractal design.

The PDF contains several photos of the antenna. It's a crazy contraption that looks relatively difficult to build. So difficult, in fact, that it makes me wonder if it's even worth it to try building one. After all, 10m antennas are not really all that big or all that difficult to build to begin with.

Even more interesting than the antennas are the personalities on both sides of the debate. The QRZ.Com discussion quickly devolved into a flame war, with neither side scoring a knockout.

Personally, I think the brouhaha is much ado about nothing. It seems to me that it's been demonstrated that you can build antennas using fractal design techniques. They are physically smaller than traditional antenna designs, but you really don't get something for nothing. Overall, they don't have as much gain as yagis or quads, and they're more complex to build.

My opinion on this is that if W1YW can build antennas that radiate a signal and can sell those antennas to someone, then more power to him. In the end, his company will live and die by how well, his antennas work and how much they cost when compared to antennas from other companies.

As for me, I think I'll stick with the more traditional HF antennas. If I need to make my antennas smaller, I'll use loading coils or designs such as the Moxon. I may not be on the bleeding edge of technology, but I'll certainly avoid a lot of headache trying to figure out who's right.

Used with permission of Dan Romanchik, from "KB6NU's Column for January 2011"



GARS and the Atlanta Area Hams do it again!

Techfest # 13 was an All Time Success in both activities and attendance.

It all started in January of 2010 just after *Techfest # 12*. While still fresh in everyone's mind we started the planning for this year. We took into consideration several recommendations and new ideas and started spreading the word to amateur related groups to get this year on their calendar. Two or three reminders were emailed to the local club presidents and newsletter editors. Then an information package was sent. The responses were in some cases a little slow, but we ended up with a room full of exhibits 18+ displayed by 12+ different groups. Attendance was well over 300. Just ask Randy and the kitchen crew, they cooked burgers, dogs and chili enough for 320 and ran out. But not before everyone got through the line at least once.

GROUPS & SUBJECTS REPRESENTED

- ♦ ARRL, North Fulton Amateur Radio League (Youth Kit Building)
- ♦ Sewanee Amateur Radio Association (Satellite)
- ♦ Kennehoochee Amateur Radio (Echolink)
- ♦ Martin Ernst, KD4HLV (IRLP and Linux for Ham Radio)
- ♦ Southeast DX Club (Card Checking, DX, DX101)
- ♦ Dan Nixon (Antenna Launcher Display and wire antennas)
- ♦ OCWA
- ♦ Ralph Pickwick (Attic Antennas for Ham Radio)
- ♦ Amy Woodrick (Gwinnett ARES)
- ♦ Steve Back and Venture Crew 73 (Scouting and Amateur Radio)
- ♦ Ken Dalton (Youth Lounge)
- ♦ Ed Woodrick (D-STAR)
- ♦ North Georgia QRP (QRP and Fun Radio)
- ♦ Atlanta Radio Club (Ham Radio on your Smart Phone)
- ♦ Alford Memorial Radio Club (Winlink, Client Server, Packet)
- ♦ Silver Comet Amateur Radio Society (FLDIGI)
- ♦ GA Chapter of 10-10 International (10-10, 900 mhz in North Georgia)

The *Tailgaters* started about 8:00. Not a lot of participation, but it was a little cool after the wind started up. I heard of several great buys, so I guess it was a success for the buyers and sellers. The show started early this year. The VE session started at 9:00, and the youth building project started at 9:30. That was pushing our regular start time of 10:00, but what-the-heck, we were there anyway. By 10:00 almost everyone was setup. By 11:00 you couldn't "stir 'em with a stick". Once again, the extreme efforts of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League paid big benefits. Several young folks completed their first electronic kit. And from the looks of it, many will be hooked on Amateur Radio for life. The NoGaQRP folks, our own Rich (K7SZ) ,Ken(W4DU) and Chris (K4FH) along with many NoGaNaughts kept a group of spectators entertained for hours. With the emphasis on digital communications in EComm work, we had great interest at the several "how to" digital tables. And if you had a youngster there, Ken(KI4BQS) and Scott(KF4PWI) had plenty of activities.

Lunch was served about 11:30 with our traditional burgers, dogs and chili. This year we had more entries in the chili cook-off than I remember in the past. Our anonymous judge made a great selection when we found out Sandy (KJ4DRO) was the winner. I think we emptied all 10 crock pots and then went into our store bought to keep some available. The kitchen crew did an outstanding job.

Door prizes were handed out all morning with the grand prize being a Kenwood hand-held given away about 1:30. Thanks Kenwood for helping with our grand prize.

All the crew working TechFest hope everyone had a great time. And thanks to everyone for being there, supporting GARS, being great Amateur Radio operators.

See you at GARS Field Day.

73, **Norm** WA4ZXV

Pictures of January 2011 TECHFEST



Excellent attendance. And a Good Time was had by all! Good displays, great food, good eye-ball QSO's.

JOIN ARRL - OR RENEW YOUR ARRL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH GARS

Help the GARS Treasury by applying for ARRL membership or renewing your ARRL membership through GARS. By applying for ARRL membership through GARS we are able to keep \$15.00 of the normal membership fee for our Treasury. We can keep \$2.00 from each renewal.

Show your support for <u>both</u> organizations by applying through GARS.

Ralph Pickwick – KJ4CNC, GARS Treasurer, will have the ARRL applications at the monthly meetings for your use. We only ask that you don't wait till the last minute to renew, as we will only be sending the applications to ARRL on a monthly basis. We will only be accepting personal checks with the applications (no paypal).

If you have any questions concerning this process, please contact Ralph at KJ4CNC@arrl.net.

UPCOMING HAMFEST CALENDAR

Orlando HamCation 2011 2/11-12-13/2011

Location: Orlando, FL Type: Independent Hamfest

Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club OARC

Website: http://www.hamcation.com/

Dalton Hamfest #29 2/26/2011

Location: Dalton, GA Type: ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Dalton ARC

Website: http://www.w4drc.net

BirmingHAMFEST 3/5/2011 Alabama Section Convention **Location:** Birmingham, AL

Type: ARRL Convention pending Executive

Committee approval

Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club

Website: http://w4cue.com

What's new on the WEB SITE?

The web site now features an upload and download section. Any file (amateur radio related) that you would like to share with the web site, you may post.

The file size limit is 6MB.

You should notice a change to the user menu. It will change when you log in to give you more options.

Are you using the web site to renew your membership? Do you get the GARZETTE from the web site?

73, David KA4KKF



GQP 50th Anniversary APRIL 9 & 10 2011



Annually, the second **full** weekend of April
There are two operating periods:
1800Z Saturday until 0359Z Sunday
1400Z to 2359Z on Sunday



BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You

If you are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology, Venture Crew 73 is for you.

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.
 - Venture crew 73 is coed.
- Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m., at the St. Marguerite D'Youville Catholic Church, 85 Gloster Rd. NW, Lawrenceville, GA 30044.
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

We enjoy:

- o Camping
- o Hiking
- o Horse Back Riding
- o Shooting Sports
- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of amateur radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

Steve Back, WB2OGY Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman Phone: 770-712-9069

Email: committeechair@venturecrew73.org

Jeff Lee, AF4JL Venture Crew 73 Advisor Phone: 678-475-3165

Email: advisor@venturecrew73.org



GARS OFFICERS and COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA President

Earl Whatley, AF4FG Vice President

Hal Collier, W4IGE Secretary

Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC Treasurer, Apparel Manager

Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO Program Manager

Dave Bruse, W4DTR Membership Chairman VE Team

David Adcock, KA4KKF Webmaster, Field Day Chairman

Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ Public Information Officer

Norm Sckhlar, WA4ZXV TechFest Chairman

Ray Bailey, N4GYN GARzette Editor

Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee

Eddie Foust, WD4JEM Repeater Chairman

Mike Weathers, ND4V WAS-Checker

Joel Barrett, W4JOL Net Manager

Mike Swiderski, K4HBI Technical Advisor

GARS Communications Systems

2 Meter Repeater 147.075(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone 2Meter Repeater 147.255(+) MHz 107.2 PL Tone

APRS 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR Backup Repeater Site Lanier Mountain, Snell-

D-Star WD4STR

145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)

6 Meter Repeater 53.110 (-1 MHz) 82.5 PL Tone

70 Cm Repeater 444.525(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone

Main Repeater Site Oak Street, Lawrenceville

The following members are celebrating birthdays in February:

HADDY BIRTHDAY!!
From All of Us at GARS

Michael Swiderski K4HBI

David Flack KC8AAY

Manuel Dominguez KF4RLZ

Sandy Jackson KJ4DRO

Roger Weed KL7HOT

Philip McCleary N4LNE

Yoshiaki Sam Ogane ND1Y

John Astleford W4NWY

William Kelly W4WNK

George Sensibar W9RR

Carlton McPherson WA4ZUW

Eddie Foust WD4JEM

GARS Recurring Calendar

- Monthly club meeting is the <u>2nd Tuesday</u> of the month at 7 p.m. Check the <u>website</u> http://www.gars.net for location.
- Every Monday at 8 p.m.: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 2-meter repeater.
- Every Wednesday at 9 p.m.: GARS 6meter net on the GARS 6-meter repeater.
- Every Saturday at 7:30 a.m.: GARS
 Weekly Family Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Law-

Meeting Minutes GARS General Meeting January 11, 2011

January 2011 GARS ON-AIR General Meeting January 27, 2011

- 1. January 11th meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather.
- 2. Kyle Albritton, W4KDA, President, was Net Control and started On-Air meeting at 7:00 pm.
- 3. Earl Whatley, AF4FG, was Alternate Net Control.
- 4. 22 people, including officers and committee chairmen, checked into the net.
- 5. Business:

Treasurer's Report - Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC

GARS will start accepting ARRL memberships and renewals that will be forwarded to the ARRL.

- 6. Sandy Jackson, KJ4DRO, announced that the February program will be "Frequency Measuring Tests From Both Ends of the Path" by John Ackerman, N8UR.
- 7. Amy Woodrick, KE4IKF, announced that more volunteers are needed for the Dog Show on Feb. 4th, 5th and 6th.
- 8. Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, reported that the Nominating Committee has suggested re-electing existing slate of officers.
- 9. No new officer nominations were made during the net.
- 10. Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV, announced the GA QSO Party which will be April 9^{th} & 10^{th}
- 11. Field Day will be June 25th & 26th 2011.
- 12. The On-Air meeting was adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Calendar for February 2011 (United States)

			February			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 GARS Meeting	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Valentines Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					
		Phases of the	moon: 2 • 11:	D 18 O 24 O		

Metro Testing Sessions

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at www.arrlga.org.

First Saturday, Even Months

9 a.m.

EOC Building Butch Nitz, AF4FS (770) 968-8780

First Wednesday

7 p.m. ARRL/VEC Roberts School 4681 School Street, Acworth Jodi Escher AG4BK (770) 387-1591

Second Saturday, Odd **Months**

ARRL VEC 8:30 a.m. Stone Mountain Methodist Church 5312 West Mountain St. Stone Mountain Bob Varone, W4ETN (770) 978-3179

Third Saturday

CA VEC 9 a.m.

Latter Day Saints Church **Room 107**

95 Holt Road NE Marietta, GA 30068 David Still, WB4RRD (707) 973-2566

Third Sunday

W5YI VEC

3 p.m.

Lawrenceville Masonic Lodge 465 S. Perry St. Lawrenceville, GA 30044 (770) 963-5721

(cont. next column)

Ham Exam results for January 2011

Six VE's were present: Frank Sauciunas KF4T0V David Bruse W4DTR Bill Cherepy WB4WTN Laurence Whited WB4FGF Karen Prescott KJ4VOI Mark Fehlig WA6NGC

We only had 3 applicants at the VE session yesterday.

- 1 passed Tech and General.
- 1 passed Tech and Failed General.
- 1 passed Tech.

We only had one applicant take the General exam and scored 100%.

One upgrade to General.

Thanks to all the Volunteer Examiners that help keep Amateur Radio alive and well.

73,

Frank Sauciunas KF4TQV

Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7 p.m. United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Rd. Douglasville

Fourth Sunday

2:30 p.m. Georgia Tech VanLeer Elec. Building Rm. W218 77 Atlantic Dr. See www.w4aq1.com Alexander G. Carver (404) 894-2936

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC Southern Polytechnic State University Meeting begins at 7:30 PM Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HO 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30 PM Talk In -146.820(-) N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library Meeting is at 6:30 PM Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00 PM

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd & Spain Rd Stone Mountain Dinner at 6:00 PM Meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

North GA ORP Club Wieuca Baptist Church on Peachtree Rd/Wieuca, at 10:00 AM

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League Masonic Lodge 194 Milton Avenue Alpharetta, Georgia meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 145.47(-)

acarver@ece.gatech.edu

GARS

APPAREL ORDER FORM

NAME:	PHONE #	
CALL:		(To avoid errors, please PRINT legibly)
NAME TO BE EMBROIDERED:		
CALL SIGN TO BE EMBROIDERED:		

ITEM	SIZ E	QUANTITY	PRICE	TOTAL
T-SHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$20.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$20.00	
White WITH name & call			\$20.00	
GOLF SHIRT WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$24.00	
White			\$24.00	
GOLF SHIRT WITH name & call				
Red			\$28.00	
White			\$28.00	
SWEATSHIRT				
Red WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
White WITHOUT name & call			\$30.00	
Red WITH name & call			\$30.00	
White WITH name & call			\$30.00	
LIGHTWEIGHT JACKET RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$31.00	
WITH name & call			\$35.00	
HEAVYWEIGHT JACKET RED ONLY				
WITHOUT name & call			\$41.00	
WITH name & call			\$45.00	
GARS BADGE WITH name & call			\$9.00	
HAT WITHOUT name & call				
Red			\$9.00	
White			\$9.00	
HAT WITH name & call				
Red			\$16.00	
White			\$16.00	

TOTAL ORDER PRICE:

Please attach your check made payable to GARS and return to Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC or mail to:

GARS

P.O. Box 88

Lilburn, Georgia 30048

NOTE: Please allow at least 4 weeks for delivery of items. Some items may need to be special ordered.

Thanks and 73s! -- Ralph KJ4CNC

GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 88 LILBURN, GA 30048

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL Name: Call Sign: Address: City: State: Zip: Email: Home Phone: Cell Phone: Work Phone: / (mm/dd/yyyy) ARRL Member (circle one): Date of Birth: Yes No Life Interests: Type of Membership Optional Contributions ■ Individual \$30.00 annually Repeater Fund: ☐ Student \$15.00 annually □ Senior \$15.00 annually (over age 65) Scholarship Fund: \$ ☐ Family ** \$35.00 annually ** Available for family members residing at the same address Additional Family Members ** Name: Call Sign: / / (mm/dd/yyyy) ARRL Member (circle one): Date of Birth: Yes No Life Name: Call Sign: /_____(mm/dd/yyyy) ARRL Member (circle one): Date of Birth: Yes No Life I agree to abide by the By-Laws of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society and understand that membership is subject to the approval of the Club. Applicant's Signature: Date: / / FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY: ___/__/___ App Received: Amount Received: \$_____ □ Cash _ Check #: ______ Member Approved: ____/____ Recorded In Membership Database _/__/___ Old Exp Date: New Exp Date: ____/____



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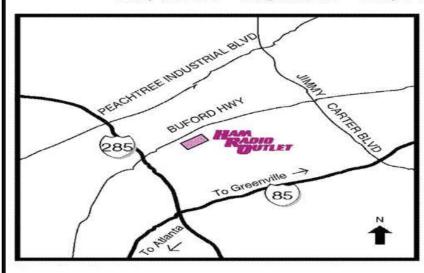
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e-mail: atlanta@hamradio.com hours: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat.

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John, KI4LMA Bill, W5RQR David, AI4XL Tom, KB4HQA Dale, W4GCL Jim, N1ABM Josh, W4JDH Brian, WD4DX



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West Mountain